

REMARKS

I. Amendment to the Claims

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, sixteen (16) claims are pending in the application. Of the pending claims, five (5) claims are independent.

Claim 67 has been amended to further clarify the claimed invention. Support for this amendment is provided in the specification, at paragraph 63.

New Claim 74 has been added. Support for this amendment is also provided in the specification, at paragraph 63.

II. Allowed Subject Matter, Claims 59-66 and 69-73

The Examiner has noted that claims 59-66 and 69-73 are allowed.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 67 and 68 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Koder. Applicant has amended Claim 67 to further clarify distinct features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections should not be maintained against these claims as amended.

Koder do not teach or suggest each and every element recited in Claim 67 of the present invention. Specifically, Koder fails to teach or suggest the claimed configuration that the spraying of photosensitizer and the illuminating are performed “at the same site within the treatment space.” Rather, Koder clearly proposes that an object to be treated pass through serially arranged treatment chambers. Mist application treatment and UV illumination treatment

are carried out in different chambers, B and C, which are separated from each other. Nowhere does Koderia suggest that the mist application and the UV illumination can be performed “at the same site within the treatment space” as claimed.

Indeed, Koderia teaches away from the claimed same site treatment configuration. Koderia uses shield plates 44 between chambers in order to prevent or greatly reduce leakage of air flows therebetween. See col. 5, lines 16-21. In other words, Koderia intends the chambers to be separated and isolated from each other as completely as possible.

As a separate and independent reason, Koderia does not disclose or suggest “establishing an air flow from the exit of the treatment space to the entrance of the treatment space” such that “the air flow directs contaminants and/or the photosensitizer toward the entrance of the treatment space” as claimed in Claim 67. If the Examiner would contend that A, B, C, D define a treatment space, then the entrance of the treatment space should be the hole located on the right side of the chamber A and the exit of the treatment space should be the hole located on the left side of the chamber D. Air flow is not established from the hole located on the left side of the chamber D to the hole located on the right side of the chamber A.

Even if some air would flow in Koderia from an alleged exit to an alleged entrance because of imperfect seal created by the shield plates 44, this cannot constitute “establishing” of an air flow. Unavoidable air flow, if any, because of such imperfect seal is merely an unwanted and inadvertent result. Clearly, Koderia intends to “prevent or greatly reduce” leakage of air flow between chambers. See col. 5, lines 16-21. Accordingly, Koderia rather teaches away from the claimed establishing of air flow.

Claim 68 and new Claim 73 depend from Claim 67 and thus incorporate all limitations thereof. Accordingly, for at least the same reasons as discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 68 and 73 should also be found allowable over Koderia.

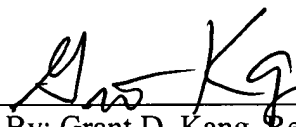
IV. Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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